



SB 709

FAVORABLE

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To: Chair Kelley, Finance committee
From: Al Delia, Vice President for Regional Development and Engagement
Date: March 16, 2021
Re: SB 709 Economic Development – Maryland Technology Infrastructure Pilot Program - Establishment

Frostburg State University is pleased to support SB 709, which will provide focused funding for strategic innovation projects in Western Maryland, co-chaired by Senator George Edwards and Delegate Jason Buckel. This concept grew from the work of the Task Force on the Economic Future of Western Maryland and is a localized version of previous attempts to create a statewide program. As has been demonstrated by the work of FSU's Division of Regional Development and Engagement, innovation – most typically in partnership with private firms – does in fact occur in Western Maryland. This fund would help the western counties compete by funding the infrastructure needed to develop transformative projects and partnerships. The bill establishes the MTIF Pilot Program within TEDCO to review projects and administer the fund. Criteria for funding under the program would include attraction of significant investment; result in significant company formation or job creation; or result in meaningful economic and employment development in Western Maryland. The bill contains a sunset provision and requires an evaluation in 2025 to include recommendations as to whether the program should be continued or even expanded to a statewide effort. Frostburg State University urges a FAVORABLE committee report.

CC: Senators Edwards and Corderman, sponsors

For more information, contact Mary E. Clapsaddle, Director of Government Relations at 410-562-2838
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